

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
for
Curtz Lake Interpretive Trail and Trailhead
Environmental Assessment: DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2009-0021

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Sierra Front Field Office (SFFO) proposes to design, construct and maintain an access road, trailhead, and an interpretive trail off Airport Road adjacent to Curtz Lake. The new facilities would replace similar facilities in the area that are outdated and poorly designed. This project would refine the interpretive program, consolidate parking and trailhead function and incorporate project road and trails into an existing road and trail network.

The preliminary EA was issued on October 10, 2009 to fifteen separate entities for public comment. One verbal and two written responses were received within the formal comment period that ended October 27, 2009. Two written responses were received a few days after the comment period formally ended. Regardless, all written responses were documented in the Administrative Record and, where applicable, substantive comments addressed in the Final EA.

PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY The proposed action and alternatives are in conformance and are consistent with the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001) and the Alpine County Resource Management Plan Amendment (2007).

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT DETERMINATION

Based on the analysis of the Curtz Lake Interpretive Trail and Trailhead environmental assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2009-0021, I have determined that the action will not have a significant effect on the human environment and an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. This finding is based on the context and intensity of the project as described:

Context:

This American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (2009) project has been brought forward by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Sierra Front Field Office (SFFO) to address public health and safety concerns at Curtz Lake Environmental Study Area and Curt Lake Trailhead. The existing Curtz Lake recreation facility is located within an established recreation area known as the Indian Creek Recreation Lands (1977). The BLM SFFO manages approximately 18,680 acres of public land in Alpine County, California.

Intensity:

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulation includes the following ten considerations for evaluating intensity:

- 1) *Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.* None of the environmental effects discussed in the EA are considered significant, nor do the effects exceed any known threshold of significance. The proposed action would produce beneficial impacts to public health and safety by improving site conditions and accessibility.
- 2) *The degree to which the selected alternative will affect public health or safety.* The proposed action would re-develop and improve existing recreation based facilities at Curtz Lake. The project will provide safe, accessible, quality recreation and interpretive opportunities to the public. The need for the proposed action is based primarily on public health and safety concerns related to existing access road, trail and trailhead layout and design. Two of the three existing pedestrian road crossings would be eliminated from the design.